

a first step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not a first access to the intelligent interconnecting device from outside has occurred;

5 a second step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to carry out authentication processing by using a user identifier and a password based on the TCP/IP protocol when it is judged in the first step that the first access from
10 outside has occurred;

a third step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge after the authentication processing in the second step whether or not authentication is given;

15 a fourth step of determining an authenticated external apparatus as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not this access is the
20 first access, when it is judged in the third step that the authentication is given;

a fifth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to extract and store a source IP address included in a packet which is
25 received from the external apparatus in the

authentication processing when this access of the external apparatus is judged to be the first access in the fourth step;

5 a sixth step of determining the external apparatus as an apparatus not to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device when the external apparatus is judged not to be authenticated in the third step;

0 a seventh step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not the source IP address of the external apparatus giving the access thereto is identical with the stored source IP address when this access is judged not to be the first access in the first step;

15 an eighth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not the source IP address is within a predetermined valid period when the source IP address of the external apparatus is judged to be identical with the stored source IP address in the seventh step;

20 a ninth step of determining the external apparatus having the source IP address which is judged to be within the predetermined valid period as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and causing
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the intelligent interconnecting device to execute the steps beginning from the second step, when the source IP address of the external apparatus is judged to be within the predetermined valid period
5 in the eighth step; and

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a tenth step of determining the external apparatus whose source IP address is judged to be nonidentical or is judged to be not within the predetermined valid period as an apparatus not to
10 be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and notifying a predetermined managing computer of the source IP address of the external apparatus which is determined as the apparatus not to be responded to,
15 when the source IP address of the external apparatus is judged to be nonidentical with the stored source IP address in the seventh step or is judged to be not within the predetermined valid period in the eighth step.

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25. An intelligent interconnecting device according to claim 23,

wherein said central controlling section executes an eleventh step of notifying a
25 predetermined managing computer of the source IP